

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY/WOW COUNTIES

OCTOBER 2003



READER NOTE: The October, November and December editions of the regional *Workforce Observations* will be the last editions to be printed in hardcopy and mailed by the Department of Workforce Development. Future editions will be placed on our website at http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/wda/wo_pubs.htm as they are currently posted here. One may sign up for monthly notification of publication updates via e-mail from this webpage. Please contact your local labor market analyst/economist if you have any questions.

Milwaukee County's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in September. This is a decrease from August's rate by six-tenths of a percentage point and is higher than last September's rate by four-tenths of a point.

Washington County's

unemployment rate exhibited the largest monthly decrease in its unemployment rate among the metropolitan counties falling seven-tenths to 4.5 percent. Like the rest of the metro area counties, Washington County's rate is higher this month than it was for the same month a year ago.

Ozaukee County's

unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in September. September's clip was five-tenths of a point lower than August's, but was five-tenths higher than the rate of September 2002.

Waukesha County's unemployment rate dropped by four-tenths to 4.2 percent, which was the lowest of the metro-county unemployment rates this month. It is two-tenths of a percentage point higher than in September 2002.

The **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September was 6.0 percent. September's rate dipped six-tenths of a point since August and is four-tenths of a point higher compared to September 2002. The labor force showed 5,600 fewer unemployed metro residents over the month. At the same time there were 10,200 fewer employed residents as well. This type of employment reduction is typical in September as this "transition" month has many people leaving summer employment for academic obligations or for the fact many jobs were temporary and seasonal in nature. It is expected that the October labor

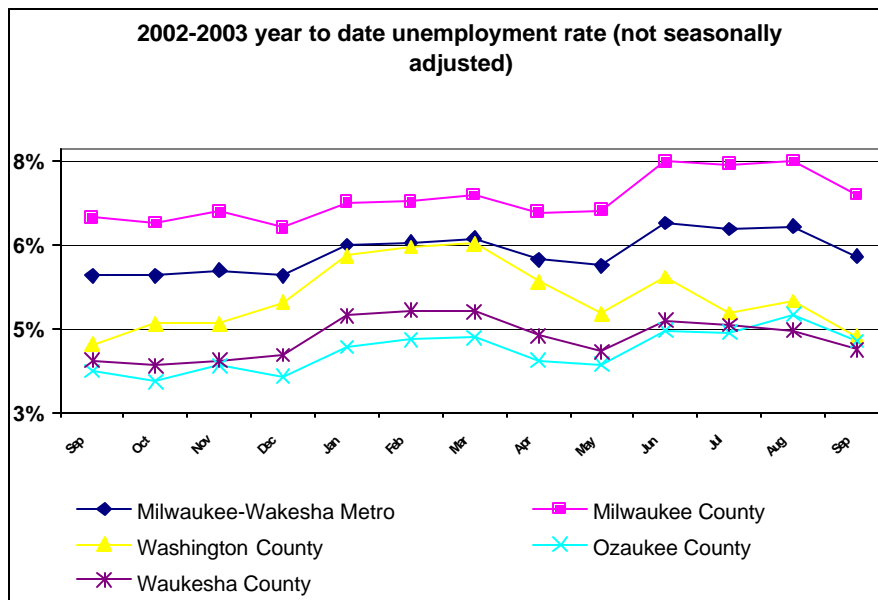
force figures will show a large rebound in the number of employed

The **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** nonfarm wage and salary estimates data, which examines industry employment levels,

shows a metropolitan total of about 820,000 jobs in September. September's job total is about 9,200 jobs fewer than in August. Job loss defies the usual dynamic of net job growth in September. The net loss of jobs was largely centered in services-providing sectors such as leisure and hospitality employment (-3,400 jobs), retail trade (-2,000 jobs), manufacturing (-1,700 jobs), and financial activities

(-1,200 jobs). Employment growth was seen in educational services (private), local government (school districts) and transportation employment.

The annual perspective shows a net loss of 20,000 jobs in the metro area in comparison to last September. Manufacturing employment shows the largest loss—6,700 jobs (-4.8%), followed by government employment, which is down 5,500 jobs (-7.7%). Retail trade employment (-3,400 jobs) and professional and business services (4,000 jobs) have also experienced dramatic employment loss compared to last September. The government employment decrease is contained in a 5,300 job loss in local government employment, which is most likely tied to school district hiring not being nearly as robust this September compared to last year. October figures will give one a better understanding of school district employment to see if more hiring is done after the academic year has begun.



| September 2003 | Wisconsin | Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA | Milwaukee County/WDA | Washington County | Ozaukee County | Waukesha County | W-O-W WDA |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Civilian Labor Force* | 3,087,178 | 814,040 | 483,016 | 68,684 | 48,487 | 213,853 | 331,024 |
| Persons Employed | 2,936,410 | 765,473 | 448,607 | 65,623 | 46,374 | 204,870 | 316,867 |
| Persons Unemployed | 150,768 | 48,567 | 34,409 | 3,061 | 2,113 | 8,983 | 14,157 |
| Unemployment Rate | 4.9% | 6.0% | 7.1% | 4.5% | 4.4% | 4.2% | 4.3% |
| Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands) | 2,788.1 | 819.9 | 520.5 | 46.7 | 36.9 | 215.7 | 299.3 |
| Goods Producing Jobs | 641.8 | 170.6 | 81.9 | 16.1 | 11.6 | 61.0 | 88.7 |
| Service Producing Jobs | 2,146.3 | 649.3 | 438.6 | 30.5 | 25.3 | 154.8 | 213.3 |
| Construction, Mining and Natural Resources | 127.7 | 34.4 | 13.5 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 16.3 | 21.5 |
| All Manufacturing | 514.1 | 136.2 | 68.4 | 13.1 | 10.0 | 44.6 | 68.6 |
| Total Trade | 436.4 | 118.3 | 64.8 | 7.1 | 5.2 | 41.0 | 54.6 |
| Wholesale Trade | 118.5 | 40.3 | 20.3 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 16.5 | 20.3 |
| Retail Trade | 317.9 | 78.0 | 44.4 | 5.0 | 3.8 | 24.7 | 34.4 |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities | 105.7 | 29.6 | 22.1 | 1.5 | 0.4 | 5.6 | 7.4 |
| Financial Activities | 158.7 | 59.2 | 41.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 14.2 | 18.6 |
| Education and Health Services | 366.5 | 128.8 | 94.6 | 5.3 | 4.4 | 24.4 | 34.0 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 248.4 | 65.2 | 41.8 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 15.6 | 24.6 |
| Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services | 434.6 | 162.3 | 113.1 | 5.3 | 5.9 | 37.9 | 49.7 |
| Information | 50.5 | 19.4 | 13.3 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 5.3 | 6.2 |
| Professional and Business Services | 247.7 | 101.9 | 73.5 | 2.3 | 3.8 | 22.3 | 28.4 |
| Other Services | 136.4 | 41.0 | 26.3 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 10.3 | 15.1 |
| All Government | 396.0 | 85.9 | 61.2 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 16.1 | 24.4 |
| Change from August 2003 | | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force* | -44,710 | -15,840 | -9,850 | -1,410 | -910 | -3,670 | -5,990 |
| Persons Employed | -25,310 | -10,200 | -5,980 | -870 | -620 | -2,730 | -4,220 |
| Persons Unemployed | -19,400 | -5,640 | -3,880 | -530 | -290 | -940 | -1,770 |
| Unemployment Rate | -0.5% | -0.6% | -0.6% | -0.7% | -0.5% | -0.4% | -0.4% |
| Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands) | -10.4 | -9.2 | -5.1 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -3.0 | -4.1 |
| Goods Producing Jobs | -10.3 | -2.6 | -1.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -1.0 | -1.4 |
| Service Producing Jobs | -0.1 | -6.6 | -3.9 | -0.4 | -0.3 | -2.0 | -2.7 |
| Construction, Mining and Natural Resources | -3.4 | -0.9 | -0.4 | -0.1 | 0.0 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| All Manufacturing | -6.9 | -1.7 | -0.9 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -0.6 | -0.8 |
| Total Trade | -5.6 | -2.6 | -1.4 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -0.9 | -1.2 |
| Wholesale Trade | -0.5 | -0.6 | -0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.2 | -0.3 |
| Retail Trade | -5.1 | -2.0 | -1.1 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.6 | -0.9 |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities | 1.5 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Financial Activities | -0.5 | -1.2 | -0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| Education and Health Services | 2.9 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | -13.4 | -3.4 | -2.2 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -0.8 | -1.2 |
| Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services | -3.6 | -1.6 | -1.1 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| Information | -0.4 | -0.3 | -0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Professional and Business Services | -1.1 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Other Services | -2.1 | -1.1 | -0.7 | -0.1 | 0.0 | -0.3 | -0.4 |
| All Government | 18.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Change from September 2002 | | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force* | 78,960 | 6,040 | 3,930 | 400 | 450 | 1,260 | 2,110 |
| Persons Employed | 66,590 | 2,870 | 1,680 | 250 | 170 | 770 | 1,190 |
| Persons Unemployed | 12,370 | 3,170 | 2,250 | 150 | 280 | 490 | 920 |
| Unemployment Rate | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.2% | 0.3% |
| Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands) | -5.5 | -20.0 | -12.0 | -1.3 | -1.1 | -5.8 | -8.2 |
| Goods Producing Jobs | -24.8 | -7.8 | -3.8 | -0.7 | -0.5 | -2.7 | -4.0 |
| Service Producing Jobs | 19.3 | -12.2 | -8.2 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -3.1 | -4.2 |
| Construction, Mining and Natural Resources | -7.9 | -1.0 | -0.4 | -0.1 | 0.0 | -0.5 | -0.6 |
| All Manufacturing | -16.8 | -6.7 | -3.4 | -0.6 | -0.5 | -2.2 | -3.4 |
| Total Trade | 6.6 | -3.6 | -2.0 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -1.3 | -1.7 |
| Wholesale Trade | 3.4 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Retail Trade | 3.2 | -3.4 | -1.9 | -0.2 | -0.2 | -1.1 | -1.5 |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities | -0.7 | -0.5 | -0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Financial Activities | 5.1 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Education and Health Services | 8.2 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 1.9 | -0.4 | -0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services | 5.7 | -4.4 | -3.1 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -1.0 | -1.3 |
| Information | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Professional and Business Services | 3.5 | -4.0 | -2.9 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.9 | -1.1 |
| Other Services | 2.2 | -0.4 | -0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| All Government | -7.5 | -5.5 | -3.9 | -0.3 | -0.3 | -1.0 | -1.6 |

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates.

Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total

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